



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/496,405	02/02/2000	Michiaki Uchikawa	0879-0252P	6155

7590 02/23/2006

Michael K. Mutter
Birch Stewart Kolasch & Birch LLP
P O Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER

HENN, TIMOTHY J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2612

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/496,405

Applicant(s)

UCHIKAWA, MICHIAKI

Examiner

Timothy J. Henn

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9-15 and 17-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-7, 9-15 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haneda (US 6,016,184).

[claim 1]

Regarding claim 1, Haneda discloses an image file apparatus, comprising: an image data reading device that reads original image data from an interchangeable recording medium (Figure 1, Item 24); a converting device that converts the original image data into reduced sized image data (Figure 2, "MICELLANEOUS INFORMATION"; c. 10, ll. 21-36); an image recording device that records the original image data and reduced sized image data in a first recording medium in a compressed format (c. 5, ll. 26-57; c. 10, ll. 21-36) and a display which includes a display memory, and displaying the image data from the first recording medium to the display memory

Art Unit: 2622

before being displayed (c. 16, l. 1 - c. 17, l. 41). However, Haneda does not disclose converting original image data into displayed sized image data if necessary.

Anderson discloses converting original image data into compressed display-sized image data (c. 6, ll. 15-33) in order to speed up the display of image data during image data reproduction (c. 6, l. 51 - c. 7, l. 5). Anderson further discloses that creation of the display-sized image data is optional if the reproduction hardware is capable of providing image data rapidly enough (c. 6, ll. 25-27). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to create a display-sized image data for inclusion in the image file of Haneda to speed up the display of image data during image data reproduction if the reproduction hardware is not capable of providing image data rapidly enough. However, Haneda in view of Anderson does not specifically disclose reading image data from an interchangeable medium wherein the image data is compressed.

Official Notice is taken that it is notoriously well known to compress image data stored on memory cards to increase the total number of images which the memory card is able to store. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use memory cards containing compressed image data in the system of Haneda in view of Anderson to increase the number of images which can be stored on the memory cards. The examiner notes that when compressed image data is read, the image data must be expanded before image processing is performed.

[claim 2]

Regarding claim 2, Haneda in view of Anderson does not disclose an interchangeable recording medium which is built into a digital camera. Official Notice is taken that it is notoriously well known in the art to transfer images directly from digital cameras to computers for archiving purposes. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the ability in the system of Haneda in view of Anderson to read images directly from digital cameras to archive the images created by the digital camera.

[claim 3]

Regarding claim 3, Haneda discloses an interchangeable recording medium which is a second recording medium capable of being detachably mounted in a digital camera (c. 5, ll. 27-30).

[claim 4]

Regarding claim 4, Haneda does not disclose a first recording medium which is built into the image file apparatus. Official Notice is taken that it is notoriously well known to store images from film and memory cards in a hard drive or other built in storage medium of a computer to allow easy access to the images. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a built in storage medium in the system of Haneda in view of Anderson to allow easy access to the filed images.

[claim 5]

Regarding claim 5, Haneda discloses a first recording medium which is an external recording medium operably connected to an image file apparatus (c. 5, ll. 34-

36).

[claim 6]

Regarding claim 6, Haneda discloses a first recording medium which is detachably mounted in the image file apparatus (c. 5, ll. 34-36).

[claim 7]

Regarding claim 7, note that Anderson discloses the use of the reduced resolution images to quickly display image data without resizing the original image data while Sato discloses only converting the image data into thinned or resized image data if necessary as determined by the image data and the inherent resolution of the display. It is therefore submitted that if the conversion was not necessary, the resized image data would not be created and thus the original image data would be readout by the image data reading device and on the other hand if the conversion was necessary, the resized image data would be readout under the teachings of Anderson. The examiner notes that a Haneda discloses a display driver to display the image (Figure 6, Item 33).

[claim 9]

Regarding claim 9, Haneda in view of Anderson discloses an image file apparatus which is configured to determine that conversion is necessary, and convert the original image data in order to thin or "reduce" the number of pixels (c. 10, ll. 21-33).

[claim 10]

Regarding claim 10, Haneda in view of Anderson discloses creating a display sized image, but does not teach an interpolation process to increase the resolution of an image if determined to be necessary based on the display size. However, it is well

Art Unit: 2622

known in the art that interpolation processes can be used to increase image resolution (Official Notice). Therefore, It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a resolution increasing interpolation process in Haneda in view of Anderson to be able to increase the resolution of an image to meet a required display size of the display.

[claim 11]

Regarding claim 11, Haneda discloses original image data which is captured by digital communication (i.e. read from the memory card reader; Figure 1, Item 24).

[claims 12-14, 15, 17, 18 and 20]

Claims 12-14, 15, 17, 18 and 20 are method claims corresponding to apparatus claims 1-3, 7, 9, 10 and 11, respectively. Therefore, claims 12-14, 15, 17, 18 and 20 are analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claims 1-3, 7, 9, 10 and 11.

[claim 19]

In regard to claim 19, note that Haneda in view of Anderson determines that the conversion is necessary or not on the basis of whether the reproduction apparatus can rapidly provide image data. The examiner notes that if the display size is equal to the image size, no processing would be necessary to convert the image to a display image and therefore the image data could be rapidly provided.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 8 is allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Regarding claim 8, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest an image apparatus which selectively processes original image data in order to create display image data if necessary, and chooses one of the original image data or display image data which is to be displayed based on information stored in a management table as claimed.

5. Claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Regarding claim 16, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest an image apparatus which selectively processes original image data in order to create display image data if necessary, and chooses one of the original image data or display image data which is to be displayed based on information stored in a management table as claimed.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

Art Unit: 2622

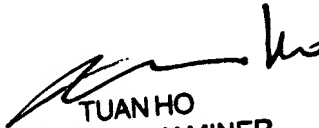
mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy J. Henn whose telephone number is (571) 272-7310. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TJH
2/15/2006


TUAN HO
PRIMARY EXAMINER